

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

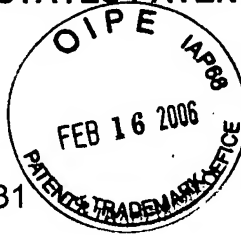
In re Patent Application of

Darko Pervan

Application No.: 10/730,131

Filed: December 9, 2003

For: FLOORBOARDS, FLOORING
SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR
MANUFACTURING AND
INSTALLATION THEREOF



Mail Stop RCE

Group Art Unit: 3635

Examiner: Basil S. Katcheves

Confirmation No.: 3197

DECLARATION OF SVANTE BERNOW

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I, Svante Bernow, hereby declare that:

I have worked for Välinge Innovation AB, or its predecessor companies since
May 1st, 2002;

I am responsible for technical market support and installation technologies as
Project Manager with regard to laminate flooring;

I have reviewed US Patent Application Serial No. 10/730,131;

Prior to the invention in US Patent Application Serial No. 10/730,131, the
thinking in the industry was that laminate floorboards should be made of a relatively
large size because it was thought that the a floor of larger boards could be installed
faster than a floor of smaller boards because there would be fewer boards to install;

I conducted a test to determine the time required to install laminate flooring in
an area 100cm X 360 cm using small boards, i.e., boards 8.4cm X 75.6cm. The
flooring was installed in 3 minutes and 13 seconds;

By comparison, the time required to install laminate flooring in an area 100cm X 360 cm using larger boards, i.e., boards 20cm X 120cm, with the angle-snap method, was 3 minutes and 57 seconds;

And, the time required to install laminate flooring in an area 100cm X 360 cm using larger boards, i.e., boards 20cm X 120cm, with the snap-snap method, was 5 minutes and 54 seconds;

In my opinion, even though there are more joints to connect, it is faster to install flooring with boards that are 8.4cm X 75.6cm, compared to larger boards of 20cm X 120cm.

That all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Date: 02-14-2006

By: _____

Svante Bernow

